

## ***Some thoughts about participating in the Indiana Teacher of the Year program:***



- 🍏 There is considerable discussion regarding the need for teacher incentives in today's educational environment, typically thought of as economic reward based on student achievement.
- 🍏 The Teacher of the Year program can offer very cost-effective incentives to teachers simply by recognizing their efforts and achievements. Here are some thoughts from the staff in the Division of Student Learning at the Indiana Department of Education:
  - "When teachers are recognized for the work that they do, their passion for teaching is reignited."  
Jennifer Hicks, Science
  - "Excellent teachers serve the whole child...not just the academic parts. Recognizing their caring and commitment can inspire schools, families and communities to support all children to success."  
Sue Foxx, Alternative Education
  - "I am always amazed by how hard great teachers work. I hope they know how much they are valued and appreciated!" Cindy Hurst, Title I
- 🍏 In the process of selecting a district candidate, consider possibilities for identifying and honoring many outstanding teachers in your corporation.
  - Identify a teacher of the week or month
  - Award certificates for specific outstanding qualities such as innovation, collaboration, communication
  - Recognize teachers selected or considered from each building as part of a year-end or opening year event
  - Think of other creative recognitions
- 🍏 One of our directors at the Department of Education made this observation about the Teacher of the Year program: "Research shows that teacher quality is the most significant factor in student success, and the significance rises with the quality. There is no better way to recognize our most effective teachers than through this noble recognition."
- 🍏 **For districts who annually select a Teacher of the Year candidate, it's time to honor another teacher!**
- 🍏 **For districts who have not always selected a Teacher of the Year candidate, it's time to make this an annual recognition!**
- 🍏 **For districts who have never participated in the Teacher of the Year program, try participating this year—it's a wonderful way to celebrate teacher excellence!**

***Thank you for helping us recognize Indiana's outstanding educators!***